

to avert a war while also achieving its goals toward that country.

This Administration's approach ill serves the American people and is dangerous for America's position in the world.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein should adhere to the demands of the United Nations Security Council to destroy any weapons of mass destruction, to refrain from further development of such weapons, and to cease and desist from hostilities towards his own people and his neighbors. He has not yet done so.

But the fact is that the United States has never given the United Nations process its full respect. The President's national security advisors have said they have intelligence to prove that Iraq is failing to comply with the United Nations' resolutions and is deceiving the weapons inspectors, but it has not fully divulged that intelligence to the inspectors.

The President has said that the United Nations must vote to use force because the weapons inspections are not working. And yet he has never advocated for a robust weapons inspection regime. Even though chief weapons inspector Hans Blix is reporting that progress is being made, albeit slowly, the fact is that we could have made even more progress with a tripling of the inspections team and an early insistence on the use of U2 spy plane overflights.

The President has an obligation to take every step possible short of war before determining whether or not war is necessary. I do not believe that the conclusion today can be reached that war is necessary.

I believe that more time can safely be given to weapons inspections without risking a unilateral attack by Iraq against the United States or our allies.

I do not believe that the facts indicate that Iraq poses a threat to the security of the United States.

But perhaps just as important, I believe that the weapons inspection regime is keeping Saddam Hussein occupied and that an even more robust weapons inspection regime would cripple any offensive capability he might contemplate.

Mr. Speaker, America's standing in the world is jeopardized by the President's position on Iraq.

President Bush has stood by while North Korea becomes a nuclear nation, but he has badgered and bullied nearly every nation in the world to support his position against Iraq, whose military capabilities are far more limited than those of North Korea. The world community has rarely received such bellicose and belligerent treatment as they have from the United States on the issue of Iraq.

The President weakens the international alliance against terrorism and other world threats as he bullies nations to support his march to war.

These nations are not admirers of Saddam Hussein, but they are opponents of war when war has not yet been proven to be necessary.

And the American people are not admirers of Saddam Hussein. But they too strongly believe that war must be the last resort and only when absolutely necessary and only with international support. This Administration chose war as its first response and has not changed course since.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Administration would strongly consider world opinion that advocates more time for weapons inspec-

tions. I would hope that this Administration would strongly consider the harm to America's standing in the world as it deals with the members of the United Nations. And I would hope that this Administration would remember that America is a peaceful nation, it is a just nation, and a strong nation. America is not, and should never become, a nation that is proud to go to war.

Should it be determined that war indeed is necessary, I have every confidence that the armed forces of this country will perform their responsibility with strength and character. I have always admired the men and women who choose to serve in the armed forces. I admire them for their hard work, their sense of duty to our country, and their sense of responsibility. But it is because of that very character and sense of duty to our nation that our government must exhaust every alternative to war before placing those men and women in harm's way.

The measure of the strength of a nation is its ability to show appropriate restraint just as much as it is its ability to protect itself and its allies. Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans and people throughout the world support allowing more time for weapons inspections. I believe they are right and I believe our nation will be well served to allow more time for a rigorous inspections program.

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DAY

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against domestic violence. Domestic violence is a harsh reality facing our country that we as a Congress must stand up and fight against.

In my seven years as a County Sheriff, I encountered hundreds of domestic violence cases. This is a societal problem that knows no income barriers, no racial barriers, and no geographic barriers.

Within our society, domestic violence causes irreparable damage to the family. Domestic violence is a main cause for child neglect and severely distorts a child's perspective on the relationship between mother and father.

The sight of a victimized mother is a sight no child in this country should ever see. Children who are raised in homes where domestic violence continues live in fear for their own lives, afraid to speak out so they won't become the victim.

Now more than ever, it is time to stand up against these domestic bullies. We must lead the way as a Congress to end this disgrace and provide a safer way of life for all of America's families.

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ACT AND AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RE- SEARCH ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support for the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act and the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act that was reintroduced March 5, 2003. I want to first thank my colleagues, Mr. EHLERS and Mr. GILCHREST, for all of the hard work, initiative, and time that they and their staffs have invested in this much needed legislation.

My district in Upstate New York is impacted, environmentally, economically, and socially, by the health and future viability of the Great Lakes. I know that New York State is only one of many states that directly feel the negative effects of invasive species. Aquatic invasive species are destroying the environment of the Great Lakes, damaging the Great Lakes fisheries, and costing taxpayers an estimated \$138 billion annually. It is important that we set interim standards for balanced water treatment systems so that we can control and see a significant decline in the increasing threat posed by aquatic invasive species to our aquatic ecosystems and natural resources.

These two pieces of comprehensive legislation would reduce the introduction of aquatic invasive species from ships and from other pathways through a variety of standards, research, and management programs. They complement one another in a variety of meaningful ways and I am hopeful that this body will be committed to moving these important pieces of legislation through the legislative process so that we, as a Congress, can properly address this problem.

Aquatic invasive species is one of many reasons I have long stood in opposition to the Great Lakes Navigation System Review study that was recently funded in the Fiscal Year 2003 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. If expansion and dredging of the St. Lawrence Seaway were to occur, we would inevitably see the introduction of and exponential increase of aquatic invasive species. The reasons I voice my support today of the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act and the Aquatic Invasive Species Research are consistent and unwavering with the stand I have taken long before today on this incredibly important issue. I am committed to the discovery of methods, and to fully funding those methods, that would work to decrease, and I hope, one day, eradicate, invasive species of all kinds in the waters of our region.

GLOBAL HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to revise and extend my remarks to include a letter I referenced during my special order statement yesterday on the issue of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, announced during his State of the Union address